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BCStats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca *Issue: 11-18* *May 6, 2011*

- **Unemployment rate inches down to 7.9%**
- **Building permits slip in first quarter, but Mainland/Southwest bucks trend**
- **Two-thirds of criminal cases in BC youth courts result in guilty verdicts**

Note to Readers

Last week's issue included estimates of provincial GDP released by Statistics Canada on April 28, 2011. There were errors in the data. Statistics Canada is working on recalculating the estimates and will be releasing revised figures shortly.

Labour Force

- **British Columbia's unemployment rate inched down 0.2 percentage points to 7.9% (*seasonally adjusted*) in April.** The improvement in the jobless rate was largely due to employment gains, as the number of British Columbians with jobs increased (+0.4%) for a third straight month. The labour force, which includes those who are either working or actively looking for work, expanded a marginal 0.1%.

  BC's unemployment rate remained above the national average (7.6%), but was similar to that in Ontario (7.9%) and Quebec (7.8%). The Prairies, especially Saskatchewan (5.0%) and Manitoba (5.2%), had the lowest unemployment rates in the country. Alberta's jobless rate (5.9%) was somewhat higher. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Goods-producing industries, which had significantly reduced their work force during the recession, continued to rebound in April.** The number of British Columbians working in these industries increased (+2.2%, *seasonally adjusted*) for a third straight month. Despite the recent gains, employment in BC's goods-producing industries remains well below the peak level of just over half a million (501,000) recorded in March 2008. There were 459,500 people working in agriculture, fishing, forestry, mining, construction, utilities or manufacturing in April.

  Job growth in the service sector stalled again (-0.1%) in April. Employment in accommodation and food services jumped 7.9%, but most other service industries posted modest gains or slight declines in employment.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Full-time employment was unchanged in April but the number of part-time workers jumped 1.8% (*seasonally adjusted*)** Young workers (aged 15-24) saw a modest improvement in labour market conditions, as the youth unemployment rate dropped to 14.6%. However, this was still more than double the 6.7% jobless rate for workers aged 25 and over.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Among the regions, unemployment rates (3-*month moving average, unadjusted*) ranged from 5.4% in Northeast to 10.1% in Kootenay.** Mainland/Southwest (8.4%) and Vancouver Island/Coast (8.5%) have seen jobless rates climb in recent months. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Economy

- **The value of building permits issued in the province during the first three months of 2011 was 4.6% lower (*unadjusted*) than in the same period of 2010.** Although permits were down significantly in most regions, planned spending on new buildings increased 11.8% in Mainland/Southwest. The region accounts for nearly three-quarters of the total value of permits issued in BC.

  North Coast (+186%) was the only other region where the value of permits increased. Vancouver Island/Coast (-28.0%), Thompson/Okanagan (-31.9%), Northeast (-32.9%), Kootenay (-35.9%), Cariboo (-39.1%) and Nechako (-82.0%) all saw permits plunge.

Report — **Room Revenues in the Greater Vancouver Regional District**

Did you know...

Canadians are split on whether scrapping the long-form census was a good decision. Nationally, 49% agree with the decision. In BC, 51% think it was a good idea.

Data Source: Ipsos Reid

Permits for new residential projects in the province were down 16.6%, with the value slipping in all but one region (North Coast). However, permits issued for industrial products rose 16.2%, largely due to planned investment in Mainland/Southwest (+54.8%) and Thompson/Okanagan (+91.2%). Although builders are holding back on commercial projects in most parts of BC, the value of permits was up significantly (+86.3%) in Mainland/Southwest, and as a result the total for commercial projects was 44.9% higher than in the first three months of 2010. Planned spending on institutional and government buildings in the province fell 2.1%.

Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

- **Sales at British Columbia's food services and drinking places slipped 1.0% (seasonally adjusted) in February.** Nationally, industry revenues inched ahead 0.1% with the increase mainly attributable to a slight rise (+0.4%) in receipts for full-service establishments. Only four provinces registered higher sales in February with Alberta (+1.4%) posting the largest increase. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Crime

- **A total of 3,785 criminal cases appeared before youth courts in British Columbia in 2009/10.** Roughly two-thirds (67%) of all cases resulted in guilty verdicts. Upon conviction, probation was the most frequently assigned sentence (41% of convictions), while just 17% of those youth found guilty received a custodial sentence. Overall, compared to the previous year the number of cases brought before youth courts fell 7.5%. *(Note that sentences are not mutually exclusive. For example, offenders sentenced to custody are often also subject to probation upon their release.)*

Approximately three-quarters of cases were Criminal Code offenses, with property crime (44%) slightly more prevalent than violent crime (36%). While the number of property crime cases remained virtually unchanged from last year (+0.2%), violent crime cases dropped sharply (-13.6%). Theft was the most common property offence with the total number of theft cases increasing 7.6% in 2009/10. With respect to violent crime, assault cases remained the most prevalent. However, compared to the previous year, the number of both common (-17.8%) and major (-8.5%) assault cases declined substantially.

Of all Canadian youth court cases in 2009/10, nearly three-quarters (74%) involved a male accused. Offences for which males had the highest involvement included sexual assault and other sexual offences, homicide, attempted murder and weapons offences. The highest representation of females was found in cases of common assault, theft and fraud.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

In 2009/10, impaired driving (15%) and theft (12%) remained the most frequent offenses dealt with by adult criminal courts in British Columbia. The number of theft-related cases was down slightly (-2.9%) from 2008/09. However, impaired driving cases jumped 12.7% compared to the previous year. A lower number of homicides (-20.3%), sexual assault (-19.6%) and other sexual offences (-14.6%) help yield a 2.9% reduction in the number of cases involving violent crimes despite an increase (+2.4%) in the number of major assault cases. Property crime cases were down 5.7% in 2009/10, primarily due to a drop in cases involving break & enter (-15.7%), possession of stolen property (-10.1%), fraud (-6.4%) and theft (-2.9%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Nation

- **Canadian manufacturer's selling prices rose 5.0% in March 2011 compared to the same month a year earlier.** Of the 21 major commodities, 15 registered an increase with this advance being primarily driven by a sharp increase (+24.3%) in the prices received for coal & petroleum products. More relevant to British Columbia, BC softwood lumber prices slipped 4.3% in March. BC pulpwood chip prices, on the other hand, rose 3.8%.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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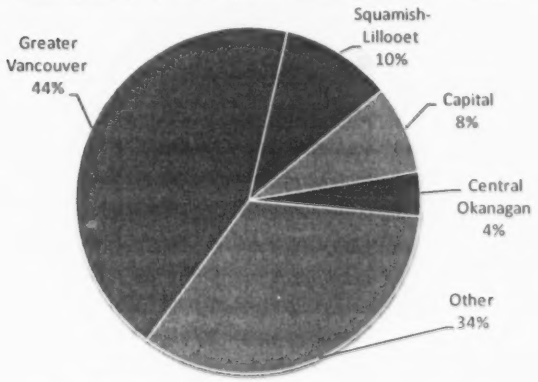
Room Revenues in Greater Vancouver Regional District

Introduction

The Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) is comprised of 21 municipalities, one electoral area and one Treaty First Nation. It makes up less than 1% of the province's total area, but is home to nearly half (47%) of British Columbia's population.

As the major economic and cultural centre in British Columbia, the region is an important source of provincial room revenues. In 2010, the GVRD accounted for approximately 44% of room revenues generated in British Columbia. This is more than four times the share of province's second largest contributing regional district, Squamish-Lillooet. Indeed, the increase in provincial room revenues recorded in 2010 (+12.2%) was largely driven by a surge in revenues generated in the GVRD.

In 2010, the GVRD accounted for nearly half of total provincial room revenues

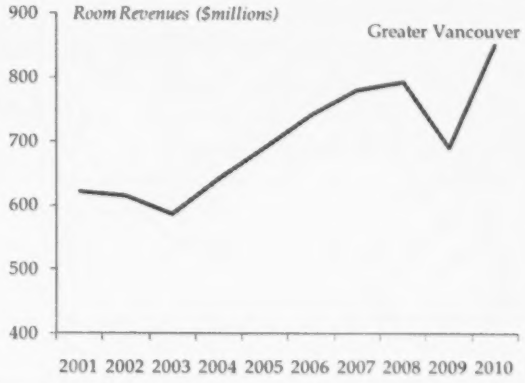


Data Source: BC Stats

Room Revenues

Historically, revenue growth in the GVRD has remained slightly lower than the BC average. During the pre-recessionary period from 2001 to 2008, room revenues in BC climbed 34.6%, considerably more than the 28.0% increase registered in the GVRD. The region suffered a slightly sharper decline in 2009, slipping 12.9% compared to the 11.8% decline in room revenues at the provincial level.

Revenues generated in the GVRD weakened significantly in 2009, but rebounded in 2010

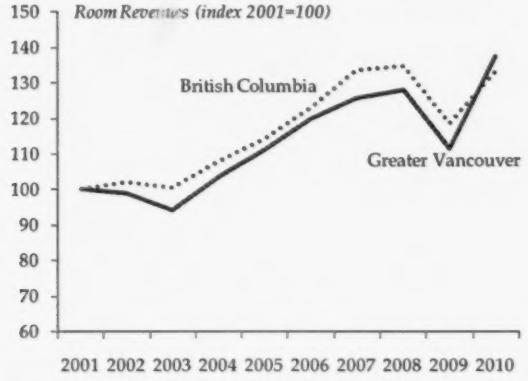


Data Source: BC Stats

However, in 2010 room revenues earned in the GVRD jumped 23.2%, nearly twice the provincial rate (+12.2%). This increase was undoubtedly due to the fact that the Olympic Games were hosted in and around the Vancouver area where demand for accommodation was at its highest.

Excluding the GVRD, room revenues generated in the rest of British Columbia advanced a modest 5.0%.

Revenue growth in the GVRD remained slightly below the provincial rate until 2010



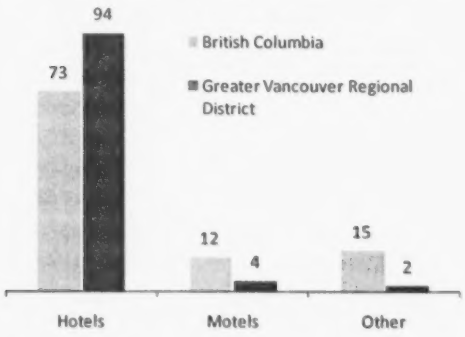
Data Source: BC Stats

Accommodation Type

More than any other region, room revenues in the GVRD are dependent on business generated by hotels. Over the past decade, hotel receipts have accounted for approximately 94% of room revenues generated in the GVRD. Motels made up just 4% of room revenues while other types of accommodation, including vacation rentals, resorts and bed & breakfasts, accounted for just 2%. At the provincial level, hotels account for slightly less than three-quarters (73%) of total room revenues.

Hotels account for a larger share of revenue in the GVRD than for the province as a whole

Room Revenues, 2001-2010 (% of total revenues)

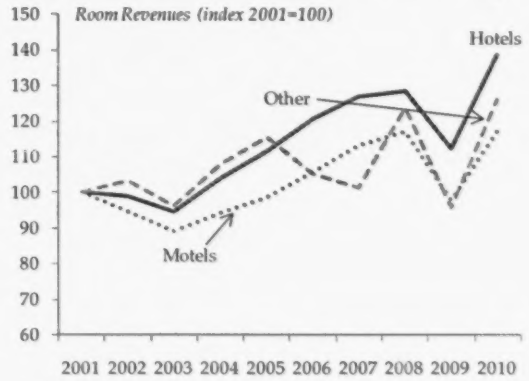


Data Source: BC Stats

In 2010, riding on the heightened demand for accommodation during the Olympics, hotel revenues in the region advanced nearly one-quarter (+23.2%). Operators of motels (+20.0%) and other accommodation (+32.2%) also saw strong revenue gains during the year.

During most of the past ten years, growth in the region's hotel revenues has far exceeded that of motels and other accommodations. Between 2001 and 2010, hotel receipts advanced 38.6%, significantly more than the increase in revenues at motels (+17.2%) and other types of accommodation (+26.2%).

Hotel revenues have climbed more than those of motels and other accommodations recently

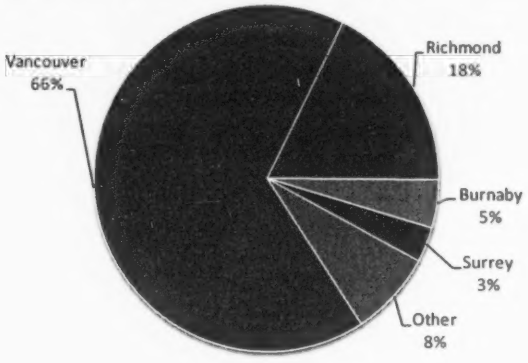


Data Source: BC Stats

Urban Centres

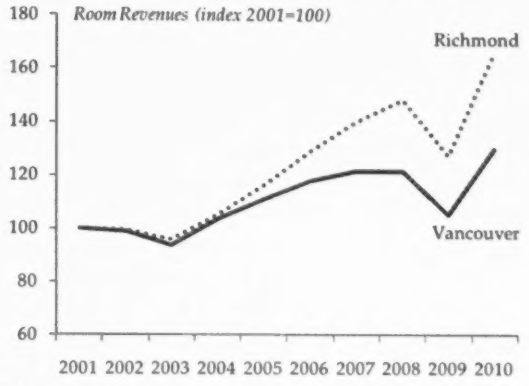
Although the Greater Vancouver Regional District is comprised of a number of municipalities, nearly all (92%) of the region's room revenues are generated in four urban centres: Vancouver, Richmond, Burnaby and Surrey.

Roughly two-thirds of GVRD revenues are generated in the City of Vancouver



Data Source: BC Stats

Revenues in Richmond have advanced more than those in Vancouver



Data Source: BC Stats

Vancouver

Vancouver, not surprisingly, provides the largest contribution to regional room revenues. In 2010, the City of Vancouver was responsible for approximately two-thirds (66%) of GVRD revenue.

In 2010, room revenues earned in Vancouver jumped 23.4%, marginally higher than the rate of expansion in the region as a whole (+23.2%). Nearly all (92%) of Vancouver's revenues are generated in the downtown area, which posted a slightly higher increase (+23.8%) compared to the rest of the city (+19.5%). Since 2001, annual revenues generated in Vancouver have risen by nearly a third (+30.0%).

Richmond

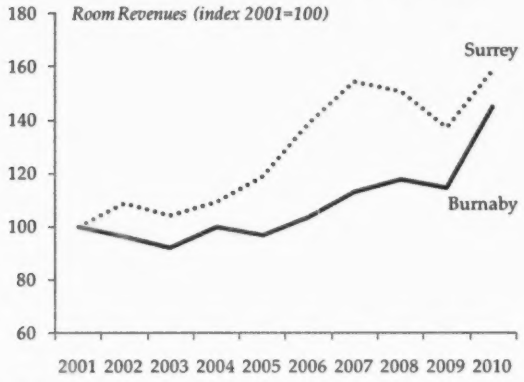
The City of Richmond is the region's second largest contributing municipality, accounting for just under a fifth (18%) of total GVRD revenues. In 2010, accommodation operators in Richmond posted a 30.4% jump in revenues, more than offsetting the sharp decline (−14.3%) registered during the previous year. Between 2001 and 2010, revenues in Richmond climbed 65.7%, far more than in either Vancouver or Burnaby.

Burnaby

Burnaby (5%) and Surrey (3%) each make considerably smaller contributions to total GVRD room revenues. However, both have registered significant increases in room revenues over the past decade.

From 2001 to 2008, revenues generated in Burnaby expanded at a relatively moderate pace (+17.4%), but saw only a slight decline (-2.4%) during the deepest part of the recessionary period in 2009. In 2010, however, revenues in Burnaby surged ahead (+26.4%) at a rate exceeding the regional average.

Room revenues in Surrey have climbed sharply through the past decade



Data Source: BC Stats

Surrey

In Surrey, the increase in revenues between 2001 and 2008 was markedly higher (+50.6%) than in other GVRD municipalities. Room revenues dropped 9.0% in 2009 but the decline was completely offset in 2010, when receipts expanded 15.7%.

Other GVRD

Approximately 8% of room revenues generated in the GVRD are earned in municipalities other than Vancouver, Richmond, Burnaby and Surrey. Between 2001 and 2008, room revenues in the rest of the GVRD advanced 28.0% and then, following suit with the region as a whole, declined sharply (–13.5%) in 2009. Unlike Vancouver, Richmond, Burnaby and Surrey, however, 2010 brought only a partial rebound in revenues (+9.8%).

Conclusion

The GVRD accounts for almost half of all room revenues earned in BC. One unique feature of the accommodation industry in the GVRD is the fact that nearly all of its revenues are generated by hotels.

While the City of Vancouver accounts for the lion's share of total regional revenues, Richmond, Burnaby and Surrey have seen their shares of total regional room revenues increase during the last decade. All of these regions suffered sharp declines during the economic downturn of 2009. The Olympics helped boost room revenues in the GVRD, and this, together with generally stronger economic conditions, contributed to a rebound in revenues during 2010.

Infoline

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jan 1/2011	% change on one year ago
BC	4,554.1	1.2
Canada	34,278.4	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 4)		
(BC - at market prices)	2009	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	191,006	-3.4
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	161,851	-1.8
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	36,287	-3.5
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	25,374	-1.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Feb 2011	3,176	0.9
Merchandise Exports - Feb 2011	2,581	-3.4
Retail Sales - Feb 2011	4,839	0.7
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on one year ago	12-month avg % change
(all items - Mar 2011)		
BC	3.1	1.8
Vancouver	3.0	2.1
Victoria	2.9	1.4
Canada	3.3	2.0
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Apr 2011	prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	8.9	
Labour Force - BC	2,467.6	0.1
Employed - BC	2,272.9	0.4
Unemployed - BC	194.7	-2.6
		Mar 2011
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.9	8.1
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.6	7.7
INTEREST RATES (percent)	May 4/2011	May 5/2010
Prime Business Rate	3.00	2.25
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.70	3.80
- 5 year	5.69	6.25
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	May 4/2011	May 5/2010
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	0.9580	1.0266
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	1.0433	0.9712
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Apr 2011	one year ago
BC	828.11	1.1
Canada	837.75	2.9

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

2010 BC Apprenticeship Student Outcomes Survey Summary Report

The 2010 Apprenticeship Student Outcomes (APPSO) Survey was conducted with former students who completed the final year of their apprenticeship training in a B.C. post-secondary institution between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009. Approximately six months later, from January to April of 2010, 2,750 former students from 29 institutions (14 public and 15 private) participated in survey telephone interviews - the gross response rate was 56 percent. For more information on BC Student Outcomes, visit BC Student Outcomes

http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Libraries/APPSO_Reports/2010_Apprenticeship_Report_pdf.pdf

File Finder

BC Stats has created a powerful new tool to find small area data on the web site. Users can filter on an area type or a specific location, time period, product, and subject. The File Finder app is still very much under development and only a few products have been linked into it as yet, but it is already quite useful so we decided to share it with you and ask you to help guide its further development. File Finder locates data files. If you are looking to search through our articles use the top bar tab called Analytical Reports.

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/filefinder.asp

Canada Votes – Know Your Riding

On May 2nd Canadians went to the polls. Our Federal Electoral District profiles will help you to understand the characteristics that define your constituency.

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/cen06/profiles/detailed/ch_fed.asp

Released this week by BC Stats

- Labour Force Statistics, April 2011
- Earnings & Employment Trends, April 2011

Next week

- Tourism Sector Monitor, April 2011
- Exports, March 2011

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